

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 13**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2001- 005**  
**DATE: April 17, 2001      TIME: 1:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths have been attributed directly to flooding at this time.
3. DAMAGES: A Flood Warning remains in effect for the Red River of the North where levels at Wahpeton, Fargo and Grand Forks continue a slow fall while rises are still occurring downstream in Drayton and Pembina. The river at Wahpeton measured 14.89 feet today, a 0.44-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river at Fargo measured 34.97 feet, a 0.82-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The level at Grand Forks measured 44.21 feet, a 0.24-foot decrease. The river at Drayton measured 40.98 feet, a 0.29-foot increase during the past 24 hours. A river crest of 41 feet is expected on April 19-20. At Pembina, the river was at 47.23 feet, a 0.55-foot increase during the past 24 hours. A river crest of 49.5 to 50 feet is expected on April 21-22.

The Pembina River is also under a flood warning. The river at Walhalla measured 8.4 feet today; flood stage is 11 feet. At Neche, the river measured 14.99 feet; flood stage is 18 feet. The river will begin to rise above flood stage on April 21.

Cass County officials report substantial damage to at least two homes at this time. Additionally, three homeowners reported sewer backup damage, and one homeowner noted that water was seeping through the foundation.

In Barnes County, one homeowner reported a flooded basement, and another individual experienced septic system failure. A Valley City homeowner reported that a basement wall was lost and a second was partially damaged when four feet of water from a nearby creek flooded the basement. Initial damage assessments by county officials indicate that culvert washouts occurred, in some cases destroying the culvert.

In neighboring Ransom County, initial damage assessments indicate that damages occurred to county highways and roadways in 14 townships. Damages include small holes over culverts and road washouts around culverts. Emergency repairs have been made; however, a few township roads remain closed. High winds and wave action have narrowed some township roads to one lane.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that five locations on state highways remain closed because of floodwaters. Those locations are: N.D. Highway 200, from Hurdsfield to Junction 52; N.D. Highway 66 at mile marker 138

to the Red River; N.D. Highway 5 at mile marker 335 to the Red River; U.S. Highway 81 between Columbia and Bacon Roads in Grand Forks; and N.D. Highway 11 from Fairmount to the Red River. Highways with water on the roadways and where traffic is allowed include two locations: N.D. Highway 54, from I-29 to Oslo; and N.D. Highway 14 at mile marker 69. DOT officials anticipate that floodwaters may soon inundate N.D. Highway 3 at mile marker 132 and N.D. Highway 36 at mile marker 34.

Road and culvert washouts continue to be reported in Wells County. Homeowners, primarily in the rural area, are reporting basement water damage due to seepage or septic tank problems.

The starting date of fieldwork was pushed back again because of continued cool temperatures and wet conditions, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 62 percent adequate to 38 percent surplus statewide.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Barnes County, the American Red Cross is providing one month's rent and utility hookup charges for a family whose home sustained structural damage after the basement collapsed.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) provided an aerial surveillance flight of the Red River on April 17 for officials for state and local officials in Walsh County. CAP staff has provided photo support of flooding along the Red River.

The North Dakota National Guard has been releasing guardsmen from state active duty. The National Guard has also initiated an inventory of its assets. Guard members have begun an after-action report.

The Cass County Highway Department completed a protective dike along the Red River south of the Maple Prairie and Forest River developments. Crews have issued approximately 250,000 sandbags and delivered clay to the city of Frontier to assist with overland flood fight efforts. Crews also added a culvert and clay to control drainage in the Frontier area. Clay was also added to a paved road in the Round Hill development to address potential breakout and overland flooding on the Wild Rice River.

The city of Fargo temporarily suspended sanitation pickup due to reassignment of personnel for flood control efforts. Areas along the Red River are restricted to sandbag volunteers, residents and flood fight personnel.

Wells County road crews are attempting to maintain open roadways by repairing road and culvert damage as it occurs. Residents are installing sump pumps to help remove water seeping into the basements. County road crews and township supervisors are locating and maintaining barricaded sections of flooded roadways.

In Grand Forks, officials for the University of North Dakota (UND) reported that water levels are decreasing in the English Coulee, prompting them to discontinue pumping operations.

The Barnes County Commission issued a disaster declaration. Officials for the city of New Rockford and Eddy County issued emergency declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director